

From: PAT GRANT [mailto:plgrant@earthlink.net]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2006 3:08 PM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov; MLPA_ITeam@resources.ca.gov; howa@howa.net

Subject: MLPA_ITEM: Re: Draft evaluation of fishing areas

Dear SAT and BRTF Members,

I am a long time resident of Monterey Bay and have enjoyed the gentle recreation of fishing from my kayak for many years now.

Fishing from a kayak has many limitations but it affords an unequalled opportunity to truly appreciate the interface of the worlds of air and water.

The Draft Evaluation of Fishing Areas is unrepresentative of the Monterey/Carmel area. It states that the proposals impose no impact on this community. It is patently not true that there is no rockfish angling in the proposed Pacific Grove and Carmel Bay SMCA's. I personally enjoy these areas, nearly always with at least one other kayaker, 3-8 times each month during RCG Complex season. I usually see other kayak anglers when I am out. Your chart's claim of zero is false.

Because of the foregoing data, I will speculate that the numbers for the Cypress Pinnacles are based on party boats. However, this is an area that kayakers fish many times each month as well.

The number of kayak anglers is small in the overall scheme of fishing interests. We are a few hundred in all of Northern California and but a couple of dozen in the Monterey/Carmel area. I would especially like to describe the importance of the area of Carmel Bay from Cypress Point to the Carmel River State Beach to kayak anglers. This is often the only area in Monterey County that is sufficiently protected from our normal NW swell such that a kayaker can safely launch and enjoy a day of paddling and fishing for wholesome fish. That it is readily accessible to the main residential community of Monterey County makes it that much more critical.

While the southern half of Carmel Bay has been "no take" for years, the entire northern side has been open and the kayakers disperse across it. The richness of this area for quality and variety of RCG Complex species supports a successful history of sustainable recreation.

I hope you will not rely upon misleading or absent information that may lead you to approve water closures that will eliminate an environmentally sustainable recreation or concentrate it to a tiny area which could create a non-sustainable impact.

Sincerely,

Pat

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